

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, big changes can come from small places. For President Eisenhower and every American born since his time, big change came from a dusty old church pew.

One early Sunday morning, Eisenhower ceremoniously went to Abraham Lincoln's former church, where a new preacher, an immigrant, would re-shape Ike's ideology.

That preacher described, in his Scottish accent, how he had no answer for his children when asked why God wasn't in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He eloquently assured his children God was what made America better than any other country. So eloquently that Ike would see the pledge changed in a matter of months.

While activist judges and militant atheists want you to believe that taking God out of school and government is the right thing to do, 91 percent of Americans disagree. They still believe "in one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We have proved that we will not bow to terrorists. But 91 percent of Americans also vow not to bow to extremist judges and a tiny atheist minority.

Americans overwhelmingly support "One Nation Under God" so much that they are giving their children's lives to save it.

That's just the way it is.

RESOLUTIONS OF INQUIRY ON MAHER ARAR

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Maher Arar, whose treatment at the hands of American officials is a stain upon our national conscience.

During a layover in New York's JFK airport in September 2002, Mr. Arar, who was born in Syria but who now holds Canadian citizenship, was seized by American officials. He was held without access to a lawyer for two weeks in the United States, then transferred briefly to Jordan, and finally to Syria. Mr. Arar was imprisoned in Syria for 10 months, most of the time in a dark underground dungeon the size of a closet. He was tortured both physically and psychologically, and forced to make false confessions, including that he had attended an al-Qaeda terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. Maher Arar was finally released a year after he was seized in New York, never having been charged with any crime.

When he was in American custody in New York, Maher Arar demanded to speak to a

lawyer. He was denied. He demanded to speak to a judge. He was denied. He asked the American officials not to send him to Syria, as he knew he would be tortured there. Of course, the Americans did not need to be told that Syria routinely tortures its prisoners, as the U.S. State Department lists Syria in its annual Human Rights report as a country that practices torture. Yet Maher Arar was sent to Syria for interrogation, where he was brutally tortured, just as the American officials involved in his rendition must have known he likely would be.

Maheer Arar was the victim of the Bush administration's program of "extraordinary rendition," whereby prisoners in American custody are sent abroad for interrogation in other countries, sometimes to places such as Syria and Uzbekistan that are known to routinely practice torture. This is a disgusting practice that brings dishonor to the United States of America, and ultimately endangers our troops in the field by validating the use of torture all over the world. Extraordinary rendition is nothing more than the outsourcing of torture, and this program must come to an immediate halt. The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act, which I introduced in this House over a year and a half ago, would end the practice of extraordinary rendition. But the Republican leadership has refused to bring the Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have many details on the case of Maher Arar, because the Bush administration has refused to divulge any information on its program of extraordinary rendition and the rubber-stamp Republican Congress have refused to conduct any meaningful oversight over this program. Now that the President has admitted that the CIA operated secret prisons all over the world, the Congress must step up to the plate and conduct true oversight on the President's program of extraordinary rendition.

This week, the official Canadian inquiry into the case of Maher Arar, which focused on the role that Canadian officials played in his rendition, released its report. The Arar Commission report clears Maher Arar of any wrongdoing, and concludes that he was indeed transferred to Syria by the United States, where he was tortured. American authorities were invited to testify before the Arar Commission, but refused.

Canada has now completed its investigation into the injustice done to Mr. Arar by Canadian officials, who without any evidence of wrongdoing told the U.S. he had connections with terrorist organizations. Mr. Speaker, now this Congress must initiate our own investigation into the role that U.S. officials played in this affair. We must know the truth of what happened to Maher Arar, why it happened, upon whose orders, and upon what justification.

That is why I have today introduced five separate Resolutions of Inquiry requesting copies of all documents in the possession of the United States Government that may relate, in any way, to Maher Arar. These five Resolu-

tions direct the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to provide Congress with all documents and records in their possession relating to Maher Arar. The same request is made of the President, in order to ensure that any documents in the possession of the White House or the Intelligence Community are also provided forthwith.

The Congress, and the American people, must learn the truth of what was done to Maher Arar. I urge my colleagues to support these Resolutions of Inquiry.

RECOGNIZING JASON ANDREW HEJL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Andrew Hejl, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jason has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jason held the principal leadership position of Venturing Crew President and has actively supported VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Andrew Hejl for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional individuals at Baldwin School District, an institution which renders significant contributions to the educational development and social enrichment of youth.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, our community, and our Nation, and is enhanced by the contributions of those who serve as mentors and those who make mentoring programs safe and strong.

The Baldwin School District and its leadership have promoted and supported mentoring

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

programs through an innovative partnership which brings together dedicated teachers, businesspeople, and community volunteers with students. Baldwin's programs have been a bridge of understanding which have highlighted the talents and determination of its young people and the devotion of the teachers, businesspeople, and community volunteers who give their time and commitment to mentoring.

The mentoring process brings benefits to youth, the caring adults who guide them, and by extension to the community, the business world, and the region, and Baldwin's innovative mentoring program is outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to the Baldwin School District.

IN HONOR OF HOSPICE OF THE
WESTERN RESERVE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Hospice of the Western Reserve as it celebrates the opening of its Lakewood office. The new office will enable the Hospice to provide more quality care to the people of Lakewood.

Hospice of the Western Reserve is a community-based agency that provides comfort and care as well as emotional support to its patients and their families. Regardless of age, disease, or ability to pay, all are welcomed to the Hospice. Serving more than 1,000 patients daily, The Hospice of the Western Reserve is the largest program of its kind in Ohio and the fourth largest in the country.

In addition to pain alleviation, the Hospice also offers social, psychosocial and spiritual support for both patients and family members. The Hospice is ever increasing its ability to provide quality care and support and enhancing quality of life.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Hospice of the Western Reserve and the opening of its Lakewood office. Providing quality assistance to those who need it most, the Hospice stands as a monument to palliative care and end-of-life service.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN CADET
ALLIANCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support and appreciation for the American Cadet Alliance and its recent establishment of a cadet unit located at the Hammer Field Army National Guard Armory in Fresno, CA. Tracing its heritage to 1909, the American Cadet Alliance is America's oldest nationwide Cadet Corps.

The American Cadet Alliance was founded as the Colonel Cody's Boy Scouts by Captain James H.C. Smyth in 1909. Shortly thereafter, the Colonel Cody's Boy Scouts was reorga-

nized as the American Naval and Marine Scouts. The American Naval and Marine Scouts continued to evolve and through numerous reorganization efforts, the efforts of the American Nautical Alliance, Inc., and the Maritime Brigade came full circle with the eventual merger of the two to form the American Cadet Alliance, Inc.

The American Cadet Alliance is led by a team of professional officers who currently serve on a voluntary basis. The American Cadet Alliance is a career-exploration program, providing young men and women with realistic view of military life, allowing them to make informed decisions regarding future service in the Armed Forces. Through a multifaceted cadet program, the importance of national pride, service to others, and maintaining a drug-free and gang-free lifestyle serve as hallmarks of the American Cadet Alliance message.

Under the leadership and sponsorship provided by the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, and with assistance from the Fresno Recruiting Company of the United States Army Recruiting Command, and guidance from local, State, national Military leaders, current and prospective participants will prove to benefit from the character building skills evident throughout the cadet program.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support of the American Cadet Alliance unit in Fresno, CA, and to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the local efforts to ensure this program's success. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the American Cadet Alliance many years of continued success.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF POLAND IN AFGHANISTAN
AND IRAQ

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the contributions Poland has made in the ongoing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Poland has been a steadfast ally of the United States, and I thank the Polish people and government for their friendship.

America has enjoyed strong ties with Poland since our Nation's founding. During the American Revolution, Polish patriots such as Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko made valuable contributions in securing our Nation's independence. Today, over 30 percent of my district and 9 million Americans across our country can claim Polish ancestry.

The Polish and American Governments have enjoyed close, bilateral relations since 1989, when Poland became a free, democratic, and independent nation. Since that time, Poland has made dramatic strides in securing its democracy, improving its economy, and developing strong relationships with its neighbors in Europe and abroad. This is evident in Poland's joining of NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004.

In addition to its membership in NATO, Poland's military has been very active in United Nations' peacekeeping forces and has played a vital role in the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Poland currently has 1,000 troops

deployed in Iraq, and when a recent call went out to NATO nations asking for reinforcements to Afghanistan, Poland was the first to respond, pledging 900 additional troops to that country.

Today, along with the Caucus on Central and Eastern Europe, I had the honor of hosting the chief of general staff of Polish Armed Forces, General Gabor. General Gabor is a distinguished soldier and a proven leader. I have no doubt that under General Gabor's watch the Polish military will continue to make valuable contributions to peace around the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Poland's contributions in Afghanistan and Iraq and to recognize Poland as one of our Nation's most important allies.

NATIONAL ADDICTION RECOVERY
MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call our attention to National Addiction Recovery Month this September, and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending those who commit their time and effort to addiction recovery.

In 2005, an estimated 19 million Americans used illicit drugs. The impact of this pandemic is felt not only by individuals and their families, but by society as well. Addiction costs our society and economy billions of dollars each year, in health care costs, property damage, and lost productivity. It also costs lives, and causes immense amounts of grief and pain. Addiction is a disease, and it must be attacked as such. No one is immune from addiction, as it afflicts people of all ages, all races, all classes, and all professions.

As with any serious disease, the treatment for addiction relies on great amounts of research and advances in health sciences. There have been tremendous strides in the fight against addiction. Congress allocates billions of dollars each year on addiction research at the National Institutes of Health. The NIH is a leader in this regard, and it has committed funds to research on addiction, including research on how addiction takes over the brain, the body, and the central nervous system. We must continue to fund NIH at the level it deserves so scientists can unlock the mysteries of addiction and its impact on individuals and society.

Today, September 20, 2006, is National Addiction Professionals Day, and I applaud the hard work and dedication of addiction counselors who must encounter daily the difficult task of prevention, intervention, and treatment. The research on addiction that NIH conducts can only support and complement the addiction counselors' efforts in helping many Americans afflicted with addiction. We need to give them all of the support we can.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the valuable contributions of all those who devote their time and energy to addiction recovery. We should honor and appreciate their hard work. Congress has shown strong support for this issue. However, we are far from victory, and we must continue